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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR. 10 August 1951

SUBJECT Procedure Followed in Preparing Oatis
for Trial

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1.

The Russians have developed a new technique in conducting such important trials as that of William Oatis in Prague at the beginning of July 1951. This technique consists in having five or six full dress rehearsals before the actual trial is permitted to take place. At such rehearsals the accused is brought into a public courtroom with defense and prosecuting attorneys, a judge and carefully selected spectators who are agents of the government. The accused does not know whether each trial is a rehearsal or the real thing. Each time he is made to go through the procedure which has been drilled into him by his interrogators. If he attempts to slip in any unexpected statement the audience is instructed to burst into wild laughter. The accused then is corrected by the interrogators and brought up for another rehearsal. This time it is expected that he will conform to his instructions.

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